



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

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GROUP 3600

Version with markings to show changes made.

59. (Amended) A method for providing operational protocols to medical diagnostic systems, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a protocol on a machine readable medium, the protocol including at least one operating parameter for a medical diagnostic system;

displaying user viewable indicia descriptive of the protocol at a medical diagnostic location, wherein the user viewable indicia include an exemplary image obtainable via the protocol;

performing a protocol exchange transaction including selecting the protocol via a user interface and loading the protocol at the medical diagnostic location from the machine readable medium via a network connection to the medical diagnostic location; and

storing an accounting record of the transaction.

69. (Amended) A method for obtaining an operational protocol for a medical diagnostic system or institution, the method comprising the steps of:

ordering a protocol by viewing a protocol list on a user interface at the medical diagnostic system or institution, and selecting a desired protocol from the list, wherein the protocol list includes an exemplary image obtainable via the protocol;

performing a transaction by accessing data from a protocol library defining the desired protocol via a network link between the diagnostic system or institution and the library, and transmitting the data from the library to the diagnostic system; and

storing a record of the transaction.

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74. (Amended) A system for providing operational protocols to a medical diagnostic station or institution, the system comprising:

at least one storage device for storing data defining a protocol, the protocol including data for controlling operation of the diagnostic station;

a messaging module in the diagnostic station or the institution for formulating messages containing data descriptive of a desired protocol, the descriptive data including an exemplary image obtainable via the protocol; and

communications circuitry for establishing a network link between the diagnostic station or institution and a remote protocol provider, for transmitting data descriptive of the desired protocol, and for receiving a reply from the remote protocol provider.

77. (Amended) The system of claim 74, wherein the messaging module is provided on a computer ~~wordstation~~ workstation networked to the medical diagnostic station within the institution.